

# 1 Interview Summaries

## 1.1 New Gloucester

Interview Type	Municipality
Interview Location	New Gloucester
Interview Date	October 21, 2001
Summary Date	December 9, 2001
Interviewer	Thomas Burns <a href="mailto:agismap1@maine.rr.com">agismap1@maine.rr.com</a>
Interviewed	Kenneth Allen, Assessor, <a href="mailto:tnewglo1@maine.rr.com">tnewglo1@maine.rr.com</a> James Issacson, Town Planner, <a href="mailto:tnewglo1@maine.rr.com">tnewglo1@maine.rr.com</a> Staff Size 1 1/2
Budget (approx)	\$5,000 (approximately)
URL:	none found

### 1.1.1 Agency Overview

New Gloucester is a small town located mid-way between the metropolitan centers of Portland and Lewiston. It is a growing community. During the late 1990's, nearly 100 building permits a year were issued. By comparison, building permits in the decade 1980-1990 averaged 35 a year. The town just recently hired a full-time planner. The Assessor is part-time as several other towns contract for his services.

### 1.1.2 GIS Initiatives

New Gloucester benefits from its participation in the Greater Portland Council of Governments. Recently, they had received the new 2001 digital aerial photographs in full-color that GPCOG had brokered with the Kodak corporation. They were very excited to be able to use these photos off-the-shelf and integrate them with their GIS.

Additionally, they benefit from their close association with a private consulting firm who maintains their hardcopy and digital parcel composite. In fact, they now produce their hardcopy tax maps from their digital composite.

The new Planner will submit the first-ever Planning budget this year which includes an item for maintenance of the GIS parcel composite.

#### 1.1.2.1 Overview of GIS Utilization

GIS products have been produced by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultant or by GPCOG. However, the town Planner was hired, in part, because of his familiarity with GIS. The part-time assessor uses the digital parcel composite as part of his analysis for property assessments.

The town council and most of the key committee members and staff have historically been very supportive of GIS.

#### 1.1.2.2 GIS Operating Environment and Infrastructure

ArcView 3.2a is installed on the planner's computer that does not have an Internet connection. Only one computer in town hall has an Internet connection. The planner is

forced to ‘sneaker-net’ downloaded data from OGIS or other data portals to his own machine. This impediment has kept the planner from searching for digital databases that might augment existing digital datasets.

### **1.1.2.3 GIS Data Resources and Requirements**

#### **1.1.2.3.1 Spatial Data**

##### **Existing data sets include:**

Kodak aerial imagery, 2001

Parcel Composite

OGIS datasets prepackaged by GPCOG

Zoning

E911 road centerline data

#### **1.1.2.3.2 Attribute Data**

New Gloucester has difficulty using attribute data associated with OGIS data layers such as NWI and NRCS Soils. The planner tried to explore the soils data packaged by GPCOG and was unable to locate the attribute data associated with the unique ids in the soils spatial dataset.

In New Gloucester, as elsewhere among small communities, the end user is stumped when they encounter a unique-id that relates to tabular data that must be joined to do any kind of analysis or make thematic maps of any type.

### **1.1.2.4 GIS Applications and Application Requirements**

New Gloucester has no GIS applications. There have begun to use a digital camera to photograph existing homes and ‘hotlink’ that image to the parcel-id which could be the beginning of a modest ‘assessing application.’

#### **Planned future GIS activity and applications:**

A subcommittee of the Planning Board known as the ‘Zoning’ Committee has discussed in several recent meetings how to use their GIS program to create a build-out analysis. So far, this is in the ‘talk’ stage but it shows an awareness of how to use GIS beyond making parcel maps and zoning maps.

### **1.1.3 Other Relevant Issues**

New Gloucester is relying heavily on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party consultant to advise them in all matters relating to GIS. The firm updates their parcel maps twice a year.

The new Kodak imagery and the parcel composite are not yet in the same projection. Kodak Imagery was delivered by GPCOG in Stateplane Zone 4101, NAD83, Units, feet, while the parcel composite and OGIS data sets are in UTM, Zone 19, NAD83, units, meters. So, New Gloucester cannot yet, in fact, overlay their vector parcel data on their raster data. Upon upgrading to ArcView 8.1 this type of coordinate transformation can happen invisibly and on-the-fly.

#### 1.1.4 Major Benefits and Cost Justification

The initial budget for the Planner's GIS/mapping program is seen as the reasonable and customary fee for hard copy parcel updates.